

Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJ: FAO OCON EAGR

FAO COUNCIL: INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT
AND COMMODITY POLICY

1. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS IN THE FAO COUNCIL
INDICATE THAT INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND COMMODITY
POLICY WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF EXTENSIVE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE
IN THE FORTHCOMING FAO CONFERENCE AND THAT POSITIONS WILL
CLOSELY FOLLOW LDC/DC LINES. THE CRITICAL ISSUES INVOLVE
TRADE POLICY, DEVELOPMENT FINANCE, DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL
POLICY AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FAO SHOULD PRESS NATIONAL
GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE POLICY ACTIONS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE
PROPOSED STRATEGY. END SUMMARY

2. A MAJOR PORTION OF THE NOVEMBER 5 SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
WAS DEVOTED TO A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT (IAA) WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR IAA (C 75/18,
AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON). ALTHOUGH THIS DOCUMENT WAS NOT ENDORSED
BY THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE CCP OR BY THE COUNCIL,
IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE CONFERENCE AS A WORKING
DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION. ALSO ON THE AGENDA IS DISCUSSION
OF THE CLOSELY RELATED BUT DISTINCT DOCUMENT ENTITLED "
COMMODITY AND TRADE PROBLEMS: SOME POSSIBLE LINES OF APPROACH
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TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

C 75/17.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS ON C 75/18 CONFORMED FULLY TO THE LDC/DC DICHOTOMY, WITH DELEGATIONS OF SEVEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INDICATING RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME OR ALL PARTS OF THE STRATEGY FOR IAA AND DELEGATIONS OF NINE LDC'S SUPPORTING THE STRATEGY, WITH MANY CALLING IT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

4. LDC REPRESENTATIVES LAID PARTICULAR STRESS ON THE NEED FOR FOR ACTIONS TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, TO INCREASE THE EXPORT EARNINGS OF LDC'S, TO IMPROVE THE ACCESS FOR LDC EXPORTS TO MARKETS IN DC'S AND TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED POLICIES AIMED AT THE IMPROVEMNET OF FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS IN ALL COUNTRIES.

5. ACCORDINGLY, MOST LDC SPOKESMEN CALLED FOR ADIPTION OF THE ELEVEN GUIDELINES INCLUDED IN THE IAA DOCUMNET OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, QUANTIFICATION OF OBJECTIVES DERIVED FROM THE GUIDELINES AND SPECIFIC TIMETABLES FOR ACTION TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES.. THEY ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR VIGOROUS FAO MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE IN AREAS COVERED BY THE GUIDELINES. VARIOUS DC DELEGATES EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OR FEASIBILITY OF EACH OF THESE PROPOSALS.

6. THIS SUBJECT IS SCHEDULED SPECIFICALLY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FAO CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17, BUT IT IS CERTAIN TO BE TREATED EXTENSIVELY IN GENERAL DISCUSSION STARTING AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 11.CALINGAERT

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